

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] In another aspect, we have provided a method of tuning a compressor stator blade so as to achieve a desired natural frequency, wherein the stator blade has an airfoil portion and a base portion that is substantially rectangular, with a pair of relatively longer side surfaces, a pair of relatively shorter end surfaces a top surface and a bottom surface; the method comprising a) identifying the natural frequency of the compressor stator blade; b) determining a different target natural frequency for the compressor stator blade; and c) removing material from the base portion of the compressor stator blade in the form of a groove that is shaped to achieve the target natural frequency.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Figures 3 and 4 illustrate a compressor stator blade in accordance with a non-limiting exemplary embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the compressor stator blade 28 also includes a base or mounting portion 30 and an airfoil portion 32. After having determined the natural frequency of the blade and after having identified a target natural frequency, the stator blade is modified by selectively removing material from the base or mounting portion 30. Specifically, a single wide groove 34 has been formed in the base or mounting portion by cutting or machining, the groove extending completely across the width of the base or mounting portion, i.e., from side surface 36 to side surface 38, parallel to end surfaces 40, 42. It can be seen that the width of the groove substantially spans the entire chord length of the airfoil portion 32. In this case, the groove 34 has parallel or substantially parallel side surfaces 44, 46 and a flat or

substantially flat base or base surface 48. Base surface 48 is parallel to radially inner surface 50 and radially outer surface 52 of the base or mounting portion 30. Thus the groove is shown to have a constant width and constant depth.